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Claims

1. A skincare composition with a pH in the range 2.5-6.0, suitable for  
5 topical application to the skin, the composition comprising 0.1-5% by weight  
salicylic acid or a salt thereof and hydrolysed milk protein, wherein the ratio  
of salicylic acid or salt thereof to hydrolysed milk protein is in the range from  
2:1 to 15:1 parts by weight.
- 10 2. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, which comprises salicylic acid.
3. A composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the concentration of  
salicylic acid is at least 1% by weight.
- 15 4. A composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the concentration of  
salicylic acid is less than 3% by weight.
5. A composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the concentration of  
salicylic acid is in the range from 1% to 3% by weight.
- 20 6. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the concentration of  
hydrolysed milk protein is at least 0.05% by weight, and most preferably at  
least 0.1% by weight.
- 25 7. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the concentration of  
hydrolysed milk protein is less than 1% by weight.
8. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the concentration of  
hydrolysed milk protein is in the range from 0.1% to 1.0% by weight.
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9. A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid is in the range from 0.5 to 4% by weight, more preferably from 0.5 to 2% by weight and the concentration of hydrolysed milk protein is in the range from 0.08 to 2%, more preferably from 0.1 to 0.5 % by weight.

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10. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the ratio of salicylic acid or salt thereof to hydrolysed milk protein is in the range from 5:1 to 12:1 parts by weight.

10 11. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the pH is in the range from 2.5 to 4.0.

12. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising one or more further topically active skincare agents selected from an anti-microbial or anti-bacterial compound, an anti-viral compound, an anti-fungal compound, an anti-inflammatory compound and an anthelmintic compound.

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13. A composition as claimed in claim 12 wherein the anti-bacterial agent is a peroxide anti-bacterial agent.

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14. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which has the form of an aqueous or oily solution or dispersion or emulsion or a gel.

15. A composition as claimed in Claim 14, which is in the form of an emulsion.

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16. A composition as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the emulsion is an oil-in-water emulsion.

30 17. A composition as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the emulsion is a water-in-oil emulsion.

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18. A composition as claimed in claim 14, which is in the form of an aqueous gel.
19. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which further  
5 comprises a gelling and/or a thickening agent.
20. A composition as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the gelling agent is a copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof.
- 10 21. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which comprises an aqueous solvent system.
22. A composition as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the solvent system is a mixed solvent system comprising water in admixture with a co-solvent.  
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23. A composition as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the co-solvent is an alcohol.
24. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which comprises one  
20 or more excipients selected from the group consisting of emulsifiers, emollients, lipids, humectants or moisturisers, binders, conditioning agents, emulsion stabilising salts, preservatives, chelating agents or sequestering agents, abrasives, pH adjusters, surfactants, perfumes and colourings.
- 25 25. An article comprising a fibrous substrate impregnated with a skincare composition with a pH in the range 2.5-6.0, suitable for topical application to the skin, the composition comprising 0.1-5% by weight salicylic acid or a salt thereof and hydrolysed milk protein, wherein the ratio of salicylic acid or salt thereof to hydrolysed milk protein is in the range from 2:1 to 15:1 parts by  
30 weight.

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26. An article as claimed in claim 25, wherein the fibrous material is impregnated with the skincare composition in an amount in the range from 10 to 30% by weight, preferably from 15 to 25% by weight and most preferably from 18 to 22% by weight of the fibrous material.

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27. An article as claimed in either one of claims 25 or 26 comprising cellulose or cotton fibres or a mixture thereof.

28. A method for the prophylactic or remedial treatment of acne, which  
10 method comprises the topical application to the skin of a patient of a skincare composition with a pH in the range 2.5-6.0, suitable for topical application to the skin, the composition comprising 0.1-5% by weight salicylic acid or a salt thereof and hydrolysed milk protein, wherein the ratio of salicylic acid or salt thereof to hydrolysed milk protein is in the range from 2:1 to 15:1 parts by  
15 weight.

29. A method as claimed in Claim 28, which is a cosmetic method.

30. A method as claimed in Claim 28, which is a therapeutic method.  
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31. The use of hydrolysed milk protein in a composition comprising 0.1-5% by weight salicylic acid or a salt thereof and having a pH in the range 2.5-6.0, wherein the ratio of salicylic acid or salt thereof to hydrolysed milk protein is in the range from 2:1 to 15:1 parts by weight, for the prophylactic or  
25 remedial treatment of acne by topical application of the composition to the skin.

32. The use as claimed in claim 31 wherein salicylic acid or a salt thereof and hydrolysed milk protein are the sole active ingredients in the composition.  
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